MONTANA
STATE PARKS

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WELCOME TO MONTANA STATE PARKS

Welcome to Montana, the Nation's Treasure State! One of Montana's jewels is its wonderful state park system. This brochure provides an overview of Montana's state park network, and specific information on each park. I encourage you to use this guide as a vehicle for exploring our state park system, which contains some of Montana's finest cultural, natural, and recreational resources. Wherever you find yourself in Montana, you are never far from a state park worth visiting.

Governor Marc Racicot

The State Capitol grounds in Helena contain the seat of Montana State Government, as well as other attractions such as the Montana Historical Society. The grounds are managed as an affiliated part of the state park system.

Front and Back Covers:
Whitefish Lake State Park, Bannack Days at Bannack State Park, and Crow Tribe member.
Donnie Sexton/Travel Montana

All photos by MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks unless otherwise noted.

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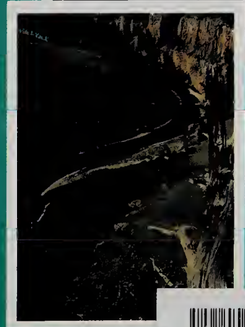

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MONTANA'S STATE PARK SYSTEM: *A WINDOW INTO ANOTHER WORLD*

Because of the exceptional recreational opportunities on Montana's federal lands, the diversity of opportunities available in the Montana State Park System is sometimes overlooked. This would be a mistake, as the true picture of Montana's natural, cultural, and recreational resources is not complete without the state parks.

Montana's State Park System was created in 1939, when the Montana Legislature created a State Parks Commission. Lewis and Clark Caverns became the state's first state park when the site was transferred to Montana from the federal government. Today, the network of sites has grown to forty-one, in addition to a number of affiliated sites.

State parks are found in every region of the state, offering a wide range of landscapes, natural features, history, and recreational opportunities. Some parks feature a diversity of visitor facilities such as showers, boat launch sites, and concessions, while other are much less developed. The symbols included with the description of each state park provide information on what is available at each park.

Some basic information about traveling in Montana, and the Montana State Park System is listed below:

GENERAL MONTANA TRAVEL INFORMATION: Call Travel Montana toll-free at 1-800-VISIT-MT (in Montana dial 406-444-2654). Hearing-impaired travelers may receive information by calling Travel Montana's telephone device for the deaf (TDD) at (406) 444-2978. Travel Montana's Internet address is as follows: http://travel.mt.gov/.

STATE PARK INFORMATION: For more detailed state park information, call the Montana Parks Division at (406) 444-3750. Hearing-impaired recreationists may call our TDD number at (406) 444-1200.

CAMPING: Camping is offered at many state parks, for a modest fee. Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis; there is no comprehensive, state-wide reservation system. While services vary between individual parks, most sites have a picnic table, a fire ring or grill, and parking for one vehicle and RV.

GROUP CAMPING: Several state parks have sites set aside for group use. A special brochure is available with more detailed information on group camping opportunities at state parks and fishing access sites.

RENTAL CABINS: Rustic cabins are available for rent at Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park. Call (406) 287-3541 for reservations.

DAY USE PARKS: Some Montana state parks are open for a range of day uses, but do not allow overnight stays.

PRIMITIVE SERVICE PARKS: A primitive parks system was established by the Montana Legislature in 1993. Primitive parks have a minimum of services available, with visitors expected to pack out their own trash.

SEASON: Some parks are open for day use and camping year-round, while others close at least some of their facilities during the winter. For the most current information, call the number listed for each park.

FEES: Day use fees are charged at many state parks. Purchase of an annual State Parks Passport allows free entry to all Montana State Parks. Camping fees vary according to the level of service provided.

Camping fees are charged per "camper unit" for a campsite. A "camper unit" is defined as a motorized vehicle, motorhome, camping bus, pull-type camper, tent, or any other device designed for sleeping.

A self-registration system is in use at most state parks. Recreation use fees are also charged for designated group use facilities, guided tours, and other services. Fee information is available from the individual parks. Special floater fees are in effect on the Smith River.

PICNICKING: Many state parks have developed facilities for picnicking, and some include special facilities for group use. Consult the symbols included with each state park description.

Montana's rich history is reflected in the windows of Bannack ghost town's empty buildings.
Lee Graves

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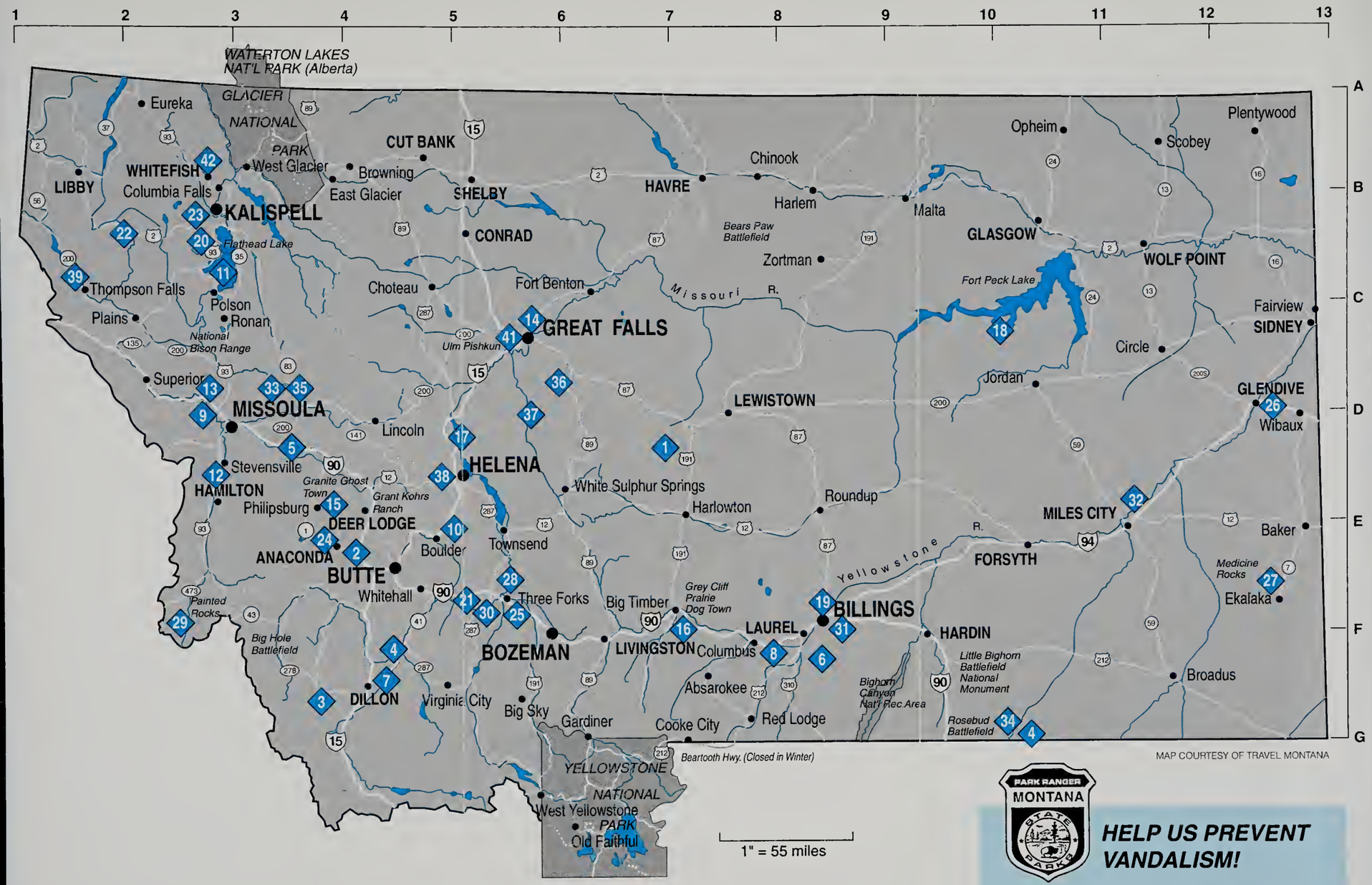
Montana's rich history is reflected in the windows of Bannack ghost town's empty buildings.

Lee Graves

PARK SITE	Pg.#	Camping	Group Facilities	Picknicking	Day Use Only	Showers	Dump Station	Visitor Center Info.	Interpretive Displays	Hiking/Interp. Trails	Boat Launch	Hand Launch Access	Fishing	Swimming	Drinking Water	Pack-In/Pack-Out	Toilets
Ackley Lake	12	•	•	•							•		•	•	•	•	•
Anaconda Smelter Stack	10																
Bannack	10	•	•	•				⊙	•				•		•		⊙
Beaverhead Rock	10				•											•	
Beavertail Hill	7	•		•						•	•		•		•		⊙
Chief Plenty Coups	14			•	•			⊙	•	•			•		•		⊙
Clark's Lookout	12				•											•	
Cooney	13	•	•	•		⊙					⊙		•	•	•		⊙
Council Grove	7			•	•				•				•		•	•	⊙
Elkhorn	11				•				•							•	
FLATHEAD LAKE	7																
Big Arm	7	•	•	•		⊙					•		•	•	•		⊙
Finley Point	7	⊙		⊙							⊙		⊙	•	⊙		⊙
Wayfarers	7	•		•			•				⊙		⊙	•	•		⊙
West Shore	8	•		•					•	•	•		•	•	•		•
Wild Horse Island	8				•								•	•		•	
Yellow Bay	8	•		•							•		•	•			•
Fort Owen	8			•	•			•	•								•
Frenchtown Pond	8			•	•		•					•	•	•	•		•
Giant Springs	12			⊙	•			⊙	⊙	⊙			⊙		•		⊙
Granite Ghost Town	12				•				•								
Greycliff Prairie Dog Town	14			⊙	•				•								
Hauser Lake (Black Sandy)	11	⊙		⊙			•		•		⊙		⊙	•	•		⊙
Hell Creek	14	•	•	•							•		•	•	•		•
Lake Elmo	15			•	•			•	•	•	•		⊙	•	•		⊙
Lake Mary Ronan	9	•	•	•							•		•	•	•		•
Lewis & Clark Caverns	11	⊙	•	•		⊙	•	•	•	•			•		•		⊙
Logan	9	•	•	•			•				•		•	•	•		•
Lone Pine	9			•	•			⊙	•	⊙					•		⊙
Lost Creek	12	⊙		•					•	•			•		•	•	⊙
Madison Buffalo Jump	13			•	•				•	•						•	•
Makoshika	15	•	•	⊙				⊙	•	•					•		⊙
Medicine Rocks	15	•	•	•											•	•	•
Missouri Headwaters	14	⊙	•	•			•		•	•	•		•		•	•	⊙
Painted Rocks	10	•		•							•				•	•	•
Parker Homestead	12				•											•	
Pictograph Cave	15			⊙	•				•	•					•		⊙
Pirogue Island	16				•											•	
Placid Lake	9	⊙	•	•					•		⊙		•	•	•		⊙
Rosebud Battlefield	16			•	•				•								
Salmon Lake	9	⊙		⊙					•	•	•		•	•	•		⊙
Sluice Boxes	13			•						•			•			•	•
Smith River	12	•		•								•	•		•		•
Spring Meadow Lake	11			⊙	•					⊙		•	⊙	•	•		⊙
Thompson Falls	10	•		•							•		•	•	•	•	•
Tongue River Reservoir	16	•		•							•		•	•	•		⊙
Ulm Pishkun	13			•	•					•							
Whitefish Lake	9	•		•							•		•	•	•		•

⊙ = Includes Disabled Access

Montana
State Parks Map



MAP COURTESY OF TRAVEL MONTANA

MONTANA STATE PARKS

For detailed information, write or call
Montana Parks Division
1420 East 6th Ave.
Helena, MT 59620
406-444-3750

State Parks

1. Ackley Lake (D7)
2. Anaconda Smelter Stack (E4)
3. Bannack (F3)
4. Beaverhead Rock (F4)
5. Beavertail Hill (D3)
6. Chief Plenty Coups (F8)
7. Clark's Lookout (F4)
8. Cooney (F8)
9. Council Grove (D3)
10. Elkhorn (E5)
11. Flathead Lake (B3)
12. Fort Owen (E3)
13. Frenchtown Pond (D3)
14. Giant Springs (C6)
15. Granite Ghost Town (E4)
16. Greycliff Prairie DogTown (F7)
17. Hauser Lake (Black Sandy) (D5)
18. Hell Creek (C10)
19. Lake Elmo (F8)
20. Lake Mary Ronan (B3)
21. Lewis & Clark Caverns (E5)
22. Logan (B2)
23. Lone Pine (B3)
24. Lost Creek (E4)
25. Madison Buffalo Jump (E5)
26. Makoshika (D12)
27. Medicine Rocks (E12)
28. Missouri Headwaters (E5)
29. Painted Rocks (F2)
30. Parker Homestead (E5)
31. Pictograph Cave (F9)
32. Pirogue Island (E11)
33. Placid Lake (D3)
34. Rosebud Battlefield (G10)
35. Salmon Lake (D3)
36. Sluice Boxes (D6)
37. Smith River (D5)
38. Spring Meadow Lake (D5)
39. Thompson Falls (C1)
40. Tongue River Reservoir (G10)
41. Ulm Pishkun (C5)
42. Whitefish Lake (B3)

PARK RANGER MONTANA STATE PARKS

HELP US PREVENT VANDALISM!

Every year thousands of dollars are spent to repair vandalized facilities in state parks. If you see park property being vandalized, let a park ranger know, or call 1-800-TIPMONT. Working together we can help prevent vandalism. Thanks for your concern!

The Montana State Park Rangers

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Clark's Lookout	12				•											•	
Cooney	13	•	•	•		⊙					⊙		•	•	•		⊙
Council Grove	7			•	•				•				•		•	•	⊙
Elkhorn	11				•				•							•	
FLATHEAD LAKE	7																
Big Arm	7	•	•	•		⊙					•		•	•	•		⊙
Finley Point	7	⊙		⊙							⊙		⊙	•	⊙		⊙
Wayfarers	7	•		•			•				⊙		⊙	•	•		⊙
West Shore	8	•		•					•	•	•		•	•	•		•
Wild Horse Island	8				•								•	•		•	
Yellow Bay	8	•		•							•		•	•			•
Fort Owen	8			•	•			•	•								•
Frenchtown Pond	8			•	•		•					•	•	•	•		•
Giant Springs	12			⊙	•			⊙	⊙	⊙			⊙		•		⊙
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Lake Mary Ronan	9	•	•	•							•		•	•	•		•
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Lost Creek	12	⊙		•					•	•			•		•	•	⊙
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Rosebud Battlefield	16			•	•				•								
Salmon Lake	9	⊙		⊙					•	•	•		•	•	•		⊙
Sluice Boxes	13			•						•			•			•	•
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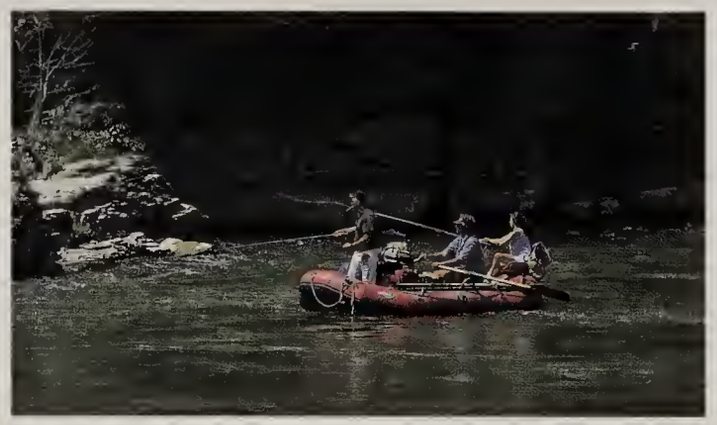
Thompson Falls	10	•		•							•		•	•	•	•	•
Tongue River Reservoir	16	•		•							•		•	•	•		⊙
Ulm Pishkun	13			•	•					•							
Whitefish Lake	9	•		•							•		•	•	•		•

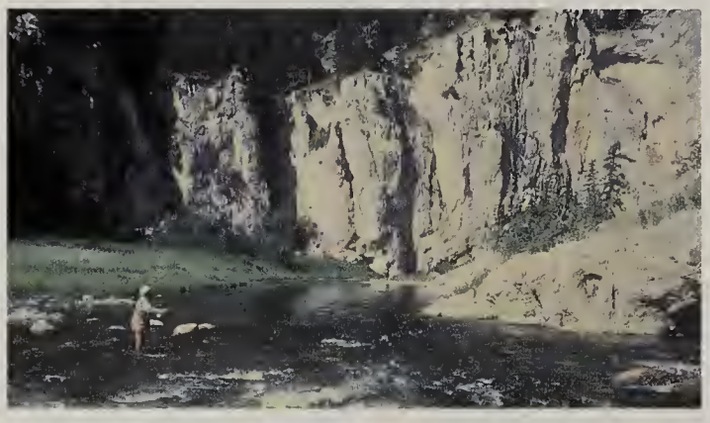
⊙ = Includes Disabled Access

WATER RECREATION: Boat launch sites, carry-in accesses, boat rentals, swimming, and fishing opportunities (see below) are available at a number of state parks. In addition, more than 300 designated fishing access sites provide access to many of the state's best known lakes, rivers, and streams.



Montana State Parks and Fishing Access Sites offer a variety of water-based recreational opportunities.

FISHING: Before baiting your hook, pick up a Montana fishing license. It allows you to fish during open seasons both inside and outside state parks. Fees and regulations are outlined in the current Montana fishing regulations, available by calling the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks at (406) 444-2535, or by visiting any Department office or licensing agent. Hearing impaired recreationists may call our TDD number at (406) 444-1200.



Montana affords some of the best fishing in the United States, in exceptional settings. Trout get the most attention, but there are also excellent opportunities for pursuing various warm-water species.

TRAILS: Some state parks feature designated hiking and/or interpretive trails. Check the symbols under each park for more information.

WATCHABLE WILDLIFE: Many of Montana's State Parks offer excellent opportunities for wildlife viewing and interpretation. Look for the binocular symbol along Montana's roadsides for good viewing sites.

Observing Montana's abundant wildlife is a popular activity for both children and adults.

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL FEATURES: While most Montana state parks offer superb natural beauty, many parks highlight cultural and historical themes as well. Important historical Native American sites are included in the park system, as are nineteenth century ghost towns and other significant Montana cultural features.

Donnie Sexton/Travel Montana

Native American heritage is an important focus at a number of Montana State Parks.

PARK RULES & REGULATIONS

REGULATIONS: You are a welcome visitor, but please respect our state parks, and leave them as you find them. Please collect only photographs and memories. Park rules and regulations were developed to help us protect facilities and the environment, and provide you with a safe and rewarding state park experience. Some things to keep in mind are as follows:

- Glass containers are not allowed on beaches.
- Pets are welcome in Montana State Parks unless "NO PETS" signs are posted. Pets must be on a leash.
- Please observe the 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. quiet hours.
- Discharge of firearms is prohibited in State Parks unless otherwise posted.

SAFETY: Outdoor adventures and sightseeing are premium experiences in Montana as long as adventurers and sightseers stay on trails, are mindful of hazardous weather conditions, observe boating safety regulations, and exercise common sense. Inexperienced whitewater enthusiasts should always consult local information sources for river conditions, or be accompanied by a professional river guide when entering unfamiliar or dangerous stretches of Montana's scenic waterways.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks offers a number of programs to teach both children and adults about various types of outdoor recreation, and to help them have fun safely.

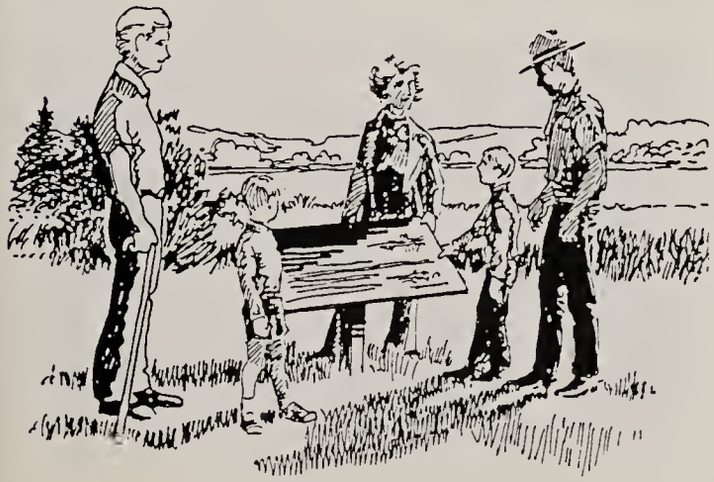
PROTECTION OF PERSONAL PROPERTY AND PARK FACILITIES: Park users are advised to avoid parking in remote areas or locations hidden from general view. Visitors who cannot avoid bringing valuables to a park should keep the items with them at all times. Visitors and park staff need to work together to ensure that facilities are adequately protected. To report serious violations or vandalism, dial 1-800-TIP-MONT. Outside of Montana dial 1-800-327-3212.

STATE PARK VOLUNTEERS Volunteers are key members of the Montana State Parks team. Many staff visitor centers, assist with special events, and help with maintenance chores. Campground hosts receive a free campsite in exchange for greeting visitors, dispensing firewood, collecting fees, and helping with other park tasks. For more information about volunteer programs, contact Montana State Parks (406) 444-3750.

Friendly campground hosts and other volunteers play a vital role in helping visitors have an enjoyable stay at Montana's State Parks.

SUGGESTIONS: We are a service organization and we value your ideas on how we can do a better job.

Please write to: Parks Division, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, P. O. Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701.



STATE PARKS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

What follows is a listing of just some of the annual events and activities in Montana's State Parks. Call the individual park or park region for specific times and dates.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY

• Most parks are open for ice fishing, ice skating, wildlife viewing, hiking, cross-country skiing, winter camping, photography, and other winter outdoor activities. Reduced camping rates are in effect. Rental cabins are available at Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park.

Cozy log cabins are available for rent all year at Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park.

• Educational, informative tours for students are available at several state parks throughout the entire school year. Contact your local FWP office for details.
• "Early Bird" State Park Passport Decals on sale. The passport allows vehicle occupants free entrance to any Montana State Park.
• The warming house at Bannack State Park is open on weekends for skating and other winter recreation. Call for more details (406-834-3413).

MARCH

• New license year begins. Don't forget to renew your fishing license and State Park Passport.
• Bannack ice skating and warming house close for the season.

APRIL

• Public tours begin at Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park--call for details.
• Lone Pine State Park Visitor Center opens for the season.

Lone Pine State Park overlooking Kalispell offers a number of special events and programs throughout the year.

• Smith River floater fees available at half price.
• Winners announced for annual State Park Poster Contest.

MAY

• Buzzard Day at Makoshika State Park, a fun event for the whole family.

Makoshika State Park--which features a new visitor center--celebrates the return of the turkey vultures every May with Buzzard Day.

• Motorboat testing at Lake Elmo State Park.
• Flathead Lake State Park units open for camping.
• Regular season floater fees in effect on Smith River.
• Bannack State Park Visitor Center opens.
• Kite Fest at Frenchtown Pond State Park--a fun event for the whole family.
• "Discovery Days" at Lone Pine State Park begin in May, with monthly day camps for children, as well as outings for seniors and special new programs.
• Saturday night lecture series begins at Bannack State Park. Call (406) 843-3413 for a list of lecture topics. Also, tours of the Bannack townsite and mill are available throughout the summer.

JUNE

• Reenactment of the Lewis and Clark encampment at Giant Spring State Park. Living interpretation of portage around the Great Falls of the Missouri River. A variety of historical activities for people of all ages.

Donnie Sexton/Travel Montana

One of the most difficult parts of the Lewis and Clark Expedition–the portage around the Great Falls of the Missouri River–is celebrated every June at Giant Springs State Park.

• "Saturday Evening Campfire Talks" begin at Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park for the summer. Contact the Caverns for more details.

• "Thursday Evening Campfire Presentations" begin at the Makoshika State Park Campground for the summer. Contact park for more details.

• "Nature Movies" series begins at Lone Pine State Park Visitors Center. The series includes outstanding Fish, Wildlife & Parks presentations, as well as informative films from other sources.

• "Out to Lunch" series begins at Fort Owen State Park. Bring a bag lunch and enjoy a program on Montana history in the beautiful Bitterroot Valley.

JULY

• Kids' and Seniors' Days at Spring Meadow State Park.

Learning about painted turtles is part of the fun during Kids' Day at Spring Meadow Lake State Park, located near Helena.

• Spring Meadow Lake State Park Triathalon (biking, running, and swimming). Call (406) 444-4720 for more details.

• Bannack Days at Bannack State Park. History comes alive in this celebration of the Montana frontier. Hearty meals are served at the Meade Hotel, and an old-time church service is offered on Sunday morning.

Donnie Sexton/Travel Montana

Bannack Days is one of the oldest, best attended, and most colorful events held in Montana's State Parks.

• Lake Elmo State Park hosts the annual Beach Games Day.

• Annual walleye tournament at Hell Creek State Park. Call FWP Glasgow (406-228-9347) or Miles City (406-232-4365) offices for more details.

• Fourth of July fireworks can be viewed from the Wayfarers Unit on Flathead State Park.

• "Tour of the Night Skies" astronomy program occurs at Frenchtown Pond State Park.

• Fort Owen Day at Fort Owen State Park. Ceremony to commemorate Montana's first permanent white settlement in 1841.

AUGUST

• Garden City Triathalon at Frenchtown Pond State Park. For further information, call (406) 542-5500.

Frenchtown Pond State Park near Missoula hosts an exciting triathalon every August.

• Dinner Theater in the Park, at Makoshika State Park. Enjoy dinner and a play in a beautiful natural setting.
• Hell Creek State Park is the site of the annual Women's Walleye Tournament, the Montana Bass Federation Qualifier, and the Youth Fishing Tournament. Contact the FWP Miles City office for more details about these August events (406-232-4365).

SEPTEMBER

• Native American Awareness Week at Chief Plenty Coups State Park. Activities focus on Native American culture, history, and dress.
• On Bannack "Senior Citizen Day," seniors (and anyone else who wishes), are allowed to drive through Bannack. This is a special opportunity for people with limited mobility to see the heart of the old ghost town. Call the park for more details.
• Educational programs available at Lone Pine. Call the park for more details.
• Chief Plenty Coups Day at Chief Plenty Coups State Park. The day-long festivities include a traditional Crow meal, cultural activities, and information about Chief Plenty Coups and Crow culture.

OCTOBER

• Off season camping fees in effect. Also, reduced floating fees on Smith River.
• The ghosts of Bannack's wild past come alive during Bannack "Ghost Town Tours."
• Guided tours of Lewis and Clark Caverns end for the year.

NOVEMBER

• Most parks remain open for camping, hiking, wildlife viewing, and assorted winter activities. Reduced fees in effect.

A variety of winter activities are options at parks which remain open through the year.

• "Early Bird" Park passports become available at the end of November.

DECEMBER

• Holiday candlelight tours of Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park.

TOURISM COUNTRIES

Six Exciting Choices to Explore

Glacier Country is Montana's spectacular northwest corner, a dazzling mixture of wildlife and wilderness, sparkling lakes and lush pine forests. Explore the soaring beauty of Glacier National Park, play nationally acclaimed golf courses, spend a week at family resorts, and discover wild rivers that are perfect for fishing and rafting. *Contact 800-338-5072 or (406) 756-7128.*

Gold West Country is Montana's colorful southwest corner, a beautiful region of lofty mountains and broad valleys, restored gold-mining camps and prized trout streams. Walk through a historic Indian battlefield, hike backcountry trails, and cast a line into fabled rivers that beckon anglers from around the world. *Contact (406) 846-1943.*

Charlie Russell Country is north-central Montana as the famed western artist loved it, a dramatic expanse of land and sky, colorful cowboys and Plains Indians. Float the wild and scenic Missouri River, follow the trail of Lewis and Clark, visit prehistoric hunting sites, and explore mountain ranges where the Rockies meet the Great Plains. *Contact 800-527-5348 or (406) 761-5036.*

Yellowstone Country is a magnificent mountain paradise in south-central Montana, an unforgettable land of watchable wildlife and majestic peaks, scenic highways and blue-ribbon trout streams. Visit Yellowstone National Park, stay at historic dude ranches, or take a high-country trip through a pristine wilderness area. *Contact 800-736-5276 or (406) 446-1005.*

Missouri River Country is Montana's far-flung northeast corner, a fascinating land of high plains and deep badlands, vast wheat ranches and the mighty Missouri. Visit a million-acre wildlife refuge, watch thousands of waterfowl take to the Big Sky from prairie ponds, and launch a motorboat on immense Fort Peck Lake, one of the nation's best walleye and sauger fisheries. *Contact (406) 525-3410.*

Custer Country is Montana's southeastern corner, a historic landscape of the Crow and Northern Cheyenne Indian reservations, of meandering rivers, rolling hills and rugged canyons. Tour the grassy hilltop where Lt. Col. George Custer lost his life in the Battle of the Little Bighorn, and fish for trout, walleye and smallmouth bass in some of Montana's finest lakes and streams. *Contact (406) 665-1671.*

GLACIER COUNTRY

BEAVERTAIL HILL *542-5500*

Beavertail Hill includes a half-mile of frontage on the Clark Fork River. Visitors enjoy fishing and camping in the shade provided by a stand of river cottonwoods. *(26 miles southeast of Missoula on I-90 to Beavertail Hill exit, then .25 miles south on county road.)*

COUNCIL GROVE *542-5500*

(Day Use Only)

Council Grove is the site where the Hellgate treaty was signed, which established the Flathead Indian Reservation. The park preserves the location of the 1855 council between Isaac Stevens and the Flathead Kootenai, and the Pend d'Oreille Indians. *(In Missoula on I-90 at Reserve St. Exit, 2 miles south on Reserve St., then 10 miles west on Mullan Rd.)*

FLATHEAD LAKE

Flathead Lake is located between Kalispell and Polson on Highways 93 and 35. This beautiful lake is renowned for boating, sailing, fishing, camping, and swimming. The park's six units offer public access to portions of Flathead Lake. One of the units--Wildhorse Island--is accessible only by boat.

Flathead Lake is the largest freshwater lake west of the Mississippi River, and was dredged out by receding glaciers during the Wisconsin period of glaciation. The Lake is 38 miles long and between 5 and 15 miles wide. Encompassing 188 square miles at an elevation of 2,892 feet, the lake's maximum depth is 339 feet, with 185 miles of shoreline.

Big Arm Unit

Summer: 849-5255
Winter: 752-5501
Reservations: 755-2706

Located on Flathead Lake's Big Arm Bay, this park is a popular jump-off point for boat trips to Wildhorse Island. Big Arm's long pebble beach is popular with sunbathers, and Canada geese watchers. *(12 miles north of Polson, on U.S. 93.)*

The Big Arm Unit offers camping on the shores of clear, cold Flathead Lake, the largest lake west of the Mississippi River.

Finley Point Unit

Summer: 887-2715
Winter: 752-5501

Finley Point is located in a secluded, mature conifer forest near the south end of Flathead Lake. Lake trout and yellow perch fishing are often excellent. Slips are available for boats up to 25 feet long, along with campsites with the capacity for 40 foot RVs. A boat pump-out station and overnight boat slips (including utilities) are also available. *(11 miles north of Polson on Montana 35, then 4 miles west on county road.)*

Wayfarers Unit

Summer: 837-4196
Winter: 752-5501

Located near the resort town of Bigfork on the northeast shore of Flathead Lake. A mature mixed

conifer forest makes this site very pleasant for camping and picnicking. Visitors can also enjoy a beach, wildflowers, walking trails, and the best sunsets in the valley. Trailer and boat sewage dump stations are available at this park. *(.5 miles south of Bigfork on Montana 35.)*

West Shore Unit *Summer: 844-3901*
Winter: 752-5501

West Shore is located in a mature forest overlooking Flathead Lake. The park's glacially-carved rock outcrops give spectacular views of Flathead Lake and the Mission and Swan Mountain Ranges. Fishing and boating are popular at this park. The campground is located above the rocky lakeshore in a fir, pine, and larch forest. *(20 miles south of Kalispell on U.S. 93.)*

Wild Horse Island *752-5501*
(Day Use Only)

One of the largest islands in the inland U.S., this primitive park is noted for its endangered palouse prairie plant species and incredible wildlife. Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, mule deer, songbirds, waterfowl, bald eagles, and wildhorses make this 2,163 acre island their home. Boat access via Big Arm is carefully regulated. *(Access from Big Arm via boat.)*

Wayne Mumford

Wildhorse Island in Flathead Lake provides exceptional wildlife viewing opportunities in a rugged and pristine setting.

Yellow Bay Unit *752-5501*

Located in the heart of Montana's famous sweet cherry orchards, this park includes a walk-in tent area, Yellow Bay Creek and a wide, gravelly beach. Visitors enjoy swimming, boating, lake trout fishing, and bird watching. *(15 miles north of Polson on Montana 35.)*

Flathead Lake is a magnet for water-based activities, from boating, to fishing for lake trout, to just loafing on the beach at Yellow Bay (above).

FORT OWEN *542-5500*
(Day Use Only)

This tiny park is a significant part of Montana's frontier history. Built of adobe and logs, Fort Owen is the site of the first permanent white settlement in Montana. *(25 miles south of Missoula on U.S. 93 to Stevensville Junction, then .5 miles east of Secondary 269.)*

FRENCHTOWN POND *542-5500*
(Day Use Only)

This forty-acre, spring-fed lake provides a swimming platform and angling for a variety of warm-water species. A group shelter is available by reservation. *(15 miles west of Missoula on I-90 at Frenchtown Exit #89, then 1 mile west on Frontage Rd.)*

LAKE MARY RONAN *752-5501*
Reservations: 755-2706

Located on the east shore of Lake Mary Ronan, this 76-acre park is shaded by a forest of douglas fir and western larch. Attractions include fishing for trout, bass, and kokanee salmon, bird watching, huckleberry picking, swimming, and mushroom hunting. *(U.S. 93 at Dayton, then 7 miles northwest.)*

LOGAN *Summer: 293-7190*
Winter: 752-5501
Reservations: 755-2706

Surrounded by a 17-acre mature forest of western larch and ponderosa pine, this park is on the north shore of Middle Thompson Lake. Visitors enjoy swimming, boating, camping, waterskiing, and fishing for rainbow trout, largemouth bass, kokanee salmon, and yellow perch. A trailer sewage dump station is also available. *(45 miles west of Kalispell on U.S. 2.)*

LONE PINE *755-2706*
(Day Use Only)

This 200-acre park offers a visitor center, hiking trails, and an archery range. Scenic overlooks provide views of Flathead Lake and the Big Mountain Ski Area. *(4 miles southwest of Kalispell on Foy Lake Rd., then 1 mile east of Lone Pine Rd.)*

SALMON LAKE *542-5500*

Salmon Lake is one of the beautiful links in a chain of lakes fed by the Clearwater River. Fishing, boating, and a variety of other water sports are popular activities in this woodland setting of western larch, ponderosa pine, and douglas fir. *(5 miles south of Seeley Lake on Montana 83.)*

Salmon and Placid Lakes are one of many attractions in the beautiful Clearwater/Swan River Valley, located along the western edge of the expansive Bob Marshall Wilderness Area.

PLACID LAKE *542-5500*

Located on the Clearwater River chain, Placid Lake is known for its good trout and kokanee salmon fishing. Interpretive panels provide an account of early-day logging practices. *(3 miles south of Seeley Lake on Montana 83, then 3 miles west on county road.)*

WHITEFISH LAKE *Summer: 862-3991*
Winter: 752-5501

This popular, 10-acre park has a mature spruce/fir forest which contributes to the ambiance of the campground and beach. Boating, swimming, and fishing opportunities are abundant. *(1 mile west of Whitefish on U.S. 93, then 1 mile north.)*

Whitefish Lake State Park provides camping and day use facilities at a popular lake located between the town of Whitefish and the Big Mountain Ski Area.

THOMPSON FALLS *752-5501*

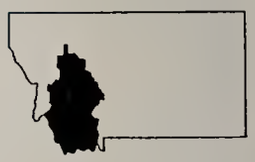
A mature, mixed pine forest makes this 36-acre park cool and private. Attractions include bird watching, fishing, for bass, trout, and ling, nature walks, and boating on Noxon Rapids Reservoir. *(1 mile northwest of Thompson Falls on Montana 200.)*

PAINTED ROCKS *542-5500*

This reservoir offers boating, camping, and fishing in the scenic Bitterroot Mountains. *(17 miles south of Hamilton on U.S. 93, then 23 miles southwest on Route 473.)*

Painted Rocks State Park offers a variety of water activities on a reservoir located on the headwaters of the Bitterroot River, near the Idaho border.

GOLD WEST COUNTRY



ANACONDA SMELTER STACK *542-5500*

(No Direct Access)

This historic stack is one of the tallest standing brick structures in the world, towering 585 feet over the town of Anaconda. There is currently no public access to the site, so the stack can only be viewed from a distance. *(In Anaconda on Montana 1.)*

BANNACK *834-3413*

The ghost town of Bannack was the site of Montana's first major gold discovery in 1862, before becoming the state's first territorial capital in 1864. The main street is lined with historic structures that recall Montana's formative years. *(5 miles south of Dillon on I-15, then 21 miles west on Secondary 278, then 4 miles south on county road.)*

Lee Graves

A fascinating piece of Western history is preserved at Bannack, one of Montana's best known ghost towns.

BEAVERHEAD ROCK *834-3413*

(Day Use Only)

Sacajawea recognized this huge landmark, resembling the head of a swimming beaver, while traveling with Lewis and Clark in 1805. *(14 miles south of Twin Bridges on Montana 41.)*

SPRING MEADOW LAKE *449-8864*

(Day Use Only)

Located on the western edge of Helena, this 30-acre spring fed lake is noted for its clarity and depth. Open to non-motorized boats only, the lake is popular for swimming, sunbathing, scuba diving, wildlife viewing, and fishing for trout, bass, and sunfish. A nature trail circles the lake. *(State 12 West, North on Joslyn to Country Club.)*

Donnie Sexton/Travel Montana

Spring Meadow Lake provides a cool swimming hole during the summer, plus a lake-side trail and good angling for several species of fish.

HAUSER LAKE (BLACK SANDY) *449-8864*

One of the few public parks on the shores of Hauser Reservoir, Black Sandy is an extremely popular weekend boating, fishing, and water skiing take-off point. *(7 miles north of Helena on I-15, then 4 miles east on Secondary 453, then 3 miles north on county road.)*

LEWIS AND CLARK CAVERNS *287-3541*

Located in the rugged Jefferson River Canyon, Lewis and Clark Caverns features one of the most highly decorated limestone caverns in the Northwest. Naturally air conditioned, these spectacular caves are lined with stalactites, stalagmites, columns, and helictites. The Caverns--which are part of Montana's first and best known state park--are electrically lighted and safe to visit. To avoid peak use periods, call the park for suggested visitation and tour times. *(19 miles west of Three Forks on Montana 2.)*

Guided cave tours are offered at Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park, including special candle light tours in December.

ELKHORN *449-8864*

(Day Use Only)

The ghost town of Elkhorn comprises the remnants of a silver mining boom in the 1880s. At its peak, the town's population was 2,500 people. Elkhorn State Park includes two of the remaining buildings from the old town. *(I-15 at Boulder exit, 7 miles south on Montana 69, then 11 miles north on country road.)*

Located at the base of the Elkhorn Mountains near Boulder, Elkhorn State Park preserves two historic buildings from an 1880s silver mining boom town.

CLARK'S LOOKOUT *834-3413*

(Day Use Only)

This outcrop above the Beaverhead River provided the Lewis and Clark Expedition with a view of the route ahead. *(In Dillon on I-90 at Montana 41 exit, .5 miles east, then .5 miles north on county road.)*

LOST CREEK *542-5500*

Lost Creek Falls cascade over a 50 foot drop to provide one of the most scenic and popular spots in the park. Mountain goats, bighorn sheep and other wildlife are frequently seen on the cliffs above the creek. *(1.5 miles east of Anaconda on Montana 1, then 2 miles north on Secondary 273, then 6 miles west.)*

PARKER HOMESTEAD *994-4042*

(Day Use Only)

This sod-roofed log cabin is representative of the frontier homes of pioneers who settled Montana. *(8 miles west of Three Forks on Montana 2.)*

STATE CAPITOL GROUNDS *449-8864*

(Day Use Only)

While this area does not resemble a state park, the formal grounds and flower gardens are visited by thousands of people each year. The capitol grounds include 50 acres around the capital building, Montana Historical Society Museum, and state office complex. *(Located in Helena at the junction of 6th and Montana Ave.)*

GRANITE GHOST TOWN *542-5500*

(Day Use Only)

This remote, difficult-to-reach ghost town is "rich" in mining history. For adventurous history buffs, this small park preserves an evocative fragment of the past--the "superintendent's house" and the ruins of an old miners' union hall. *(A high clearance four-wheel drive vehicle is recommended to reach Granite. Located approximately 5 miles southeast of Phillipsburg. Go south on Sansome Road, then east on rough dirt road opposite Center Street. Inquire locally about road conditions.)*

CHARLIE RUSSELL COUNTRY

ACKLEY LAKE *454-5840*

Ackley Lake, named after an early settler and frontiersman, offers diverse water sports opportunities. The lake provides good angling for 10 to 15 inch rainbow trout. *(17 miles west of Lewistown on U.S. 87 to Hobson, then 5 miles south on Secondary 400, then 2 miles southwest on county road.)*

GIANT SPRINGS *454-5840*

(Day Use Only)

Discovered by the Lewis and Clark Expedition in 1805, this is one of the largest freshwater springs in the nation. Visitors can picnic on the banks of the Missouri River and visit the nearby visitor center, fish hatchery and Rainbow Falls overlook. The popular River's Edge Trail also runs through the park. *(3 miles east of U.S. 87 on River Drive, in Great Falls.)*

Donnie Sexton/Travel Montana

One of the largest springs in the country gushes into the Missouri River at Giant Springs State Park, located in Great Falls.

SMITH RIVER *454-5840*

A 61-mile float trip down the remote Smith River Canyon provides outstanding scenery and excellent trout fishing. There are 27 boat camps along the river from the put-in point at Camp Baker to the take-out at Eden Bridge. In order to help preserve the unique wild quality of the Smith, a reservation and permit are required to float the river; call the number above for more details. *(16 miles northwest of White Sulphur Springs on Secondary 360, then 7 miles north on county road.)*

SLUICE BOXES *454-5840*

A primitive trail follows an abandoned railroad grade through the scenic, Belt Creek Gorge. The trail provides access to numerous stream fishing opportunities, and a nearby ghost town. The trail requires numerous fords, which are possible only during low water. There are no developed facilities at Sluice Boxes *(5 miles south of Belt on U.S. 89, then 2 miles west on county road.)*

The remote Belt Creek Gorge in Sluice Boxes State Park offers trout fishing, challenging floats, and wilderness hiking along an abandoned rail line.

ULM PISHKUN *454-5840*

(Day Use Only)

Ulm Pishkun is one of the largest Native American buffalo jumps in the U.S. Rising above the Missouri River Valley, this prehistoric bison kill site has a mile-long cliff over which buffalo were herded. *(10 miles south of Great Falls on I-15 at Ulm Exit, then 6 miles northwest on county road.)*

Victor Bjornberg/Travel Montana

Native Americans herded bison over the cliffs at Ulm Pishkun, which they processed below. Ulm Pishkun has subsequently hosted a number of important archaeological digs. 'Pishkun' is a Blackfeet Indian word meaning 'deep blood kettle.'

YELLOWSTONE COUNTRY

COONEY

Summer: 445-2326
Winter: 252-4654

This irrigation reservoir is one of the most popular recreation areas in south-central Montana. Attractions include good walleye and rainbow trout fishing. Boating and camping opportunities are abundant, and the Beartooth Mountains loom in the distance. *(22 miles southwest of Laurel on U.S. 212, then 5 miles west of Boyd on county road.)*

MADISON BUFFALO JUMP *994-4042*

(Day Use Only)

Prior to the introduction of the horse to the Indians of the Northern Great Plains in the mid-1700s, the Blackfeet, Flathead and Shoshone tribes stampeded herds of bison over this precipice in order to secure the necessities of food, shelter, and tools. The top of the jump affords impressive views of the Madison River Valley and surrounding mountain ranges. *(23 miles west of Bozeman on I-90 at Logan exit, than 7 miles south on Buffalo Jump Road.)*

Madison Buffalo Jump was an important Native American hunting site for approximately 4,000 years.

GREYCLIFF PRAIRIE DOG TOWN

(Day Use Only) *247-2940*

This lively blacktailed prairie dog community is protected and preserved through the efforts of the Nature Conservancy and the Montana Departments of Transportation and Fish, Wildlife & Parks. Interpretive displays help tell the story of these entertaining mammals. *(9 miles east of Big Timber on I-90, at Greycliff exit.)*

An entertaining colony of wild prairie dogs can be easily viewed at Greycliff Prairie Dog Town, adjacent I-90 near Big Timber.

MISSOURI HEADWATERS *994-4042*

This park is situated where the Jefferson, Madison, and Gallatin Rivers converge to form the Missouri River. Missouri Headwaters was a geographical focal point important to early Native Americans, trappers, traders, and settlers. *(3 miles east of Three Forks on I-90 at Three Forks exit, then east on Secondary 205, then 3 miles north on Secondary 286.)*

Interpretive information on the Lewis and Clark Expedition and other early explorers is one of the attractions at the Missouri Headwaters, an important historical site and source of the second longest river (2,315 miles long) in the United States.

MISSOURI RIVER COUNTRY

HELL CREEK *232-0900*

Located on the Hell Creek Arm of giant Fort Peck Lake, this park provides facilities for most water sports, as well as excellent walleye fishing. This is a launch point to the vast and rugged Missouri Breaks area. *(25 miles north of Jordan on county road.)*

CUSTER COUNTRY

CHIEF PLENTY COUPS *252-1289*

(Day Use Only)

This site preserves the home of Plenty Coups, last chief of the Crow Indians. Plenty Coups' log house and store remain as evidence of the chief's efforts to lead the Crow toward a peaceful co-existence with all people. Park includes a museum/visitor's center. *(1 mile west of Pryor on county road.)*

Donnie Sexton/Travel Montana

Located in the Crow Indian Reservation, Chief Plenty Coups State Park includes the Chief's log house, and a museum interpreting his life and Crow culture.

LAKE ELMO *(Day Use Only)* *247-2940*

Located on the outskirts of Billings, this 64-acre reservoir is a very popular park for swimming, boardsailing, non-motorized boating, and fishing. The park also features a nature trail which circles the lake, and an accessible fishing pier. *(In Billings, U.S. 87 north to Pemberton Lane, then .5 miles west.)*

Lake Elmo State Park near Billings is a popular place for non-motorized water sports.

MAKOSHIKA *365-6256*

To the Sioux Indians, Ma-ko-shi-ka meant "bad earth" or "badland." In addition to the pine and juniper-studded badlands formations, the park also houses the fossil remains of such dinosaurs as tyrannosaurus and triceratops. Interpretation of the area and displays are included in the new visitors center. Scenic roads and nature trails offer vistas of the badlands of Makoshika. *(On Snyder Avenue in Glendive.)*

Makoshika State Park on the outskirts of Glendive preserves some of Montana's most striking landforms, and is the site of important fossil dinosaur discoveries

MEDICINE ROCKS *232-0900*

Medicine Rocks preserves a rugged and beautiful sample of sprawling eastern Montana. Native Americans came here to contact magical spirits thought to reside among the unique sandstone rock formations. *(25 miles south of Baker on Montana 7.)*

Located in southeastern Montana, Medicine Rocks State Park is noted for its eroded sandstone formations.

PICTOGRAPH CAVE *247-2940*

(Day Use Only)

The Pictograph Cave complex was home to generations of prehistoric hunters who produced ancient rock paintings known as pictographs. A paved quarter-mile interpretive trail loops around the base of a cliff, providing visitors with views of the pictographs. *(In Billings on I-90 at Lockwood exit, then 6 miles south on county road.)*

Nestled at the base of picturesque sandstone cliffs, Pictograph Cave State Park preserves and interprets some of Montana's best known ancient Native American rock paintings.

PIROGUE ISLAND *232-0900*
(Day Use Only)

Sheltered by mature cottonwoods, floaters find this isolated and undeveloped Yellowstone River island an excellent spot to view wildlife and hunt for Montana moss agates. During low water, a small channel can be forded by vehicle to obtain access to the island from the mainland. *(1 mile north of Miles City on Montana 59, then 2 miles east on Kinsey Road, then 2 miles south on county road.)*

ROSEBUD BATTLEFIELD *232-0900*
(Day Use Only)

This is the site of the June 17, 1876 battle between the Sioux and Cheyenne Indians and General Crook's infantry and cavalry. Rosebud preserves a portion of rolling, eastern Montana prairie. *(25 miles east of Crow Agency on U.S. 212, then 20 miles south of Secondary 314, then 3 miles west on county road.)*

An important frontier battle site is preserved on the rolling prairie of Rosebud Battlefield.

TONGUE RIVER RESERVOIR *232-0900*

The impounded Tongue River provides a 12-mile-long reservoir set in the scenic red shale, juniper canyons, and open prairies of southeastern Montana. Boating and other water sports are popular here. Fishing is excellent for bass, crappie, walleye, and northern pike. *(6 miles north of Decker on Secondary 314, then 1 mile east on county road.)*

PARK SYMBOLS

Cultural Park

Fishing

Visitor Center/ Information

Boat Launch

Interpretive Displays

Hand Launch Access

Campground

Boat Rentals

Group Facilities *(Call park for more details)*

Trails

Tenting Area

Interpretive Trails

Showers

Interpretive Programs

Electrical Hook-up

Public Phone

Sewage Dumping

Concessions

Shelters

Groceries

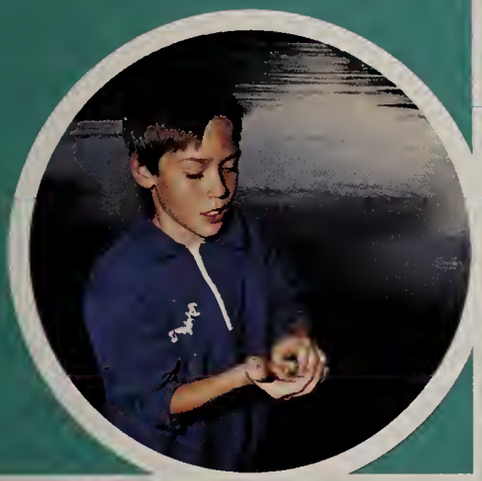
Picnic Area

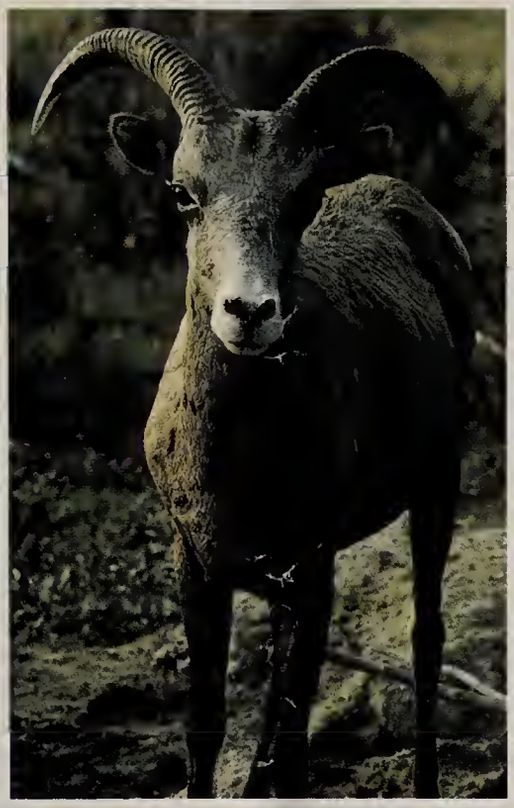
Disabled Accessible *(Toilets)*

Swimming

Marina

A World of Diversity at Montana's State Parks





MONTANA
STATE PARKS

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

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